

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office action mailed November 26, 2007. Claims 1-34 and 36-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahl (U.S. Patent No. 3,284,947). Claims 1-6 and 8-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piotrovsky (U.S. Patent No. 4,470,784), Lindsay (U.S. Patent No. 3,350,812), and Hales (U.S. Patent No. 2,129,421). Claims 7, 31-34, and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piotrovsky, Lindsay, Hales, and Weis (U.S. Patent No. 2,174,932).

In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Without acknowledging the propriety of the rejection, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution of the application, the applicant has amended the independent claims to more particularly recite the invention(s).

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 6-11 and 13. Applicant has further amended claim 1 to recite at least one engagement portion including a substantially planar tab and a cylindrical boss protruding from the tab, the boss supported by a plurality of reinforcement ridges extending between the tab and the body portion and substantially perpendicular to the tab. Support for this amendment is found on page 10, line 8 – page 11, line 8 and Figs. 6-8 and 10-14. The subject matter of amended claim 1 is not disclosed in any of the cited references or any combination thereof. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2-5, 7, and 11-15

depend from and further limit claim 1 and should therefore be allowed when claim 1 is allowed.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 22-24. Claim 16 has been further amended to recite a first body segment including one or more support braces and a second body segment including at least one engagement portion for engaging another portion of the toy figure, each engagement portion including a substantially planar tab and a cylindrical connector, wherein the connector is supported by reinforcement ridges extending from the tab and configured to engage at least one of the braces. Support for this amendment is found on page 12, lines 5-16 and Figs. 12 and 13. The subject matter of amended claim 16 is not disclosed in any of the cited references or any combination thereof. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 16 be withdrawn. Claims 17-21 depend from and further limit claim 16 and should therefore be allowed when claim 16 is allowed.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 30. Claim 25 has been further amended to recite engagement portions at opposing ends of the body portion for engaging another portion of the inner skeleton, the engagement portions including a cylindrical boss for forming a pivotable connection with another portion of the inner skeleton at a first end and a recessed, substantially circular rack for engaging another portion of the inner skeleton at a second end. Support for this amendment is found on page 11, lines 5-8 and Figs. 8, 11, and 14. The subject matter of amended claim 25 is not disclosed in any of the cited references or any combination thereof. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 25 be withdrawn. Claims 26-29 depend from and further limit claim 25 and should therefore be allowed when claim 25 is allowed.

Independent claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent

claims 37-38. Further, claim 31 has been amended to recite that at least one of the engagement portions includes a recessed, substantially circular rack configured to engage the torso or limb portion of the toy figure. Support for this amendment is found on page 11, lines 5-8, and Figs. 8, 11, and 14. These features are not disclosed in any of the cited references or any combination thereof. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 31 be withdrawn. Claims 32-34 and 36 depend from and further limit claim 31 and should therefore be allowed when claim 31 is allowed.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically via the EFS-Web system at www.uspto.gov on January 11, 2008.

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